

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 062151

54

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /106 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SES:FARIGGS:MEM

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R 281559Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062151

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET REQUEST FOR US-USSR PARLIAMENTARY  
EXCHANGES

REF: MOSCOW 4185

1. WE NOTE IN REFTEL THAT SHITIKOV POINTED TO US PARLIAM-  
MENTARY EXCHANGES WITH UK AND CANADA IN SUPPORT OF HIS  
CONTENTION THAT LACK OF FUNDS IS NOT RPT NOT SUFFICIENT  
REASON FOR CONGRESS NOT TO ESTABLISH REGULAR EXCHANGES  
WITH USSR.

2. FOR EMBASSY'S BACKGROUND ON THIS MATTER AND POSSIBLE  
USE WITH SOVIETS IF THEY RAISE QUESTION AGAIN, CONGRESS  
HAS INSTITUTIONALIZED, FORMAL EXCHANGES ONLY WITH CANADA  
AND MEXICO, ON RATIONALE THAT THEY ARE CONTIGUOUS TO US.  
THESE EXCHANGES FUNDED BY CONGRESS AND CANADIAN AND MEXI-  
CAN COUNTERPARTS. CONGRESS IS FIRMLY OPPOSED, HOWEVER, TO  
ESTABLISHING SIMILAR INSTITUTIONALIZED RELATIONS WITH OTHER  
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PAGE 02 STATE 062151

PARLIAMENTS ON GROUNDS THIS WOULD BE TOO TIME CONSUMING

AND DETRACT FROM ATTENTION TO LEGISLATIVE DUTIES.

3. EXCHANGES WITH UK, THOUGH FREQUENT AND OF LONG STAND-  
ING, ARE NOT RPT NOT ON REGULAR, INSTITUTIONALIZED BASIS.

INSTEAD, THEY ARE UNDER AUSPICES NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY.  
THESE EXCHANGES ARE FINANCED BY CONGRESS AND PARLIAMENT,  
AND HAVE SOMETIMES SUFFERED FROM LACK OF FUNDS ON BOTH  
SIDES.

4. CONGRESS ALSO HAS EXCHANGES WITH JAPANESE DIET.  
THESE EXCHANGES HAVE OCCURRED REGULARLY ON ANNUAL BASIS  
FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THEY ARE HOSTED AND PROGRAMMED BY  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND FINANCED FULLY BY FORD FOUNDATION.  
FYI. DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF  
MORE FREQUENT US-USSR PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGES ALONG LINES  
OF THOSE WITH JAPAN IF EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THIS APPROACH.  
HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO INDICATE  
OUR WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE SUCH POSSIBILITY BEFORE CONGRESS  
RESPONDS TO SOVIET PROPOSAL.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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